IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Beshai	
Application No.: 10/054512	Group Art Unit: 2668
Filed: 11/13/2001	
Title: Rate-Controlled Optical Burst Switching	Examiner: Blount
Attorney Docket No.: 120-211	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of June 20, 2006, entry of the below amendment is respectfully requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a) in order to place this application in condition for allowance.

Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.

In the claims:

Claims 1 -39 (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) In an edge node having ingress ports, output ports, a switching fabric, a controller, and a time counter at each of said output ports, a method of data burst formulation comprising steps of:

receiving burst-transfer permits at said controller, each of the burst transfer permits specifying a burst size;

sorting said burst-transfer permits according to destination;

distributing said burst-transfer permits to respective output ports;

receiving data packets of variable sizes at said ingress ports;

segmenting each of said data packets into segments of a predefined size to produce a segmented packet, wherein a last segment that is smaller than said predefined size is null padded;

switching each of said segments to a corresponding output port;

concatenating, at said corresponding output port, segments of a common destination to form data bursts according to respective burst-transfer permits;

modulating an optical carrier by said data bursts to produce a modulated optical carrier; and

transmitting said modulated optical carrier to a core node.

41. (original) The method of claim 40 wherein said concatenating step includes the further step of removing any null-padding from each segmented packet.

42. (original) The method of claim 41 including the further step of extending the size of a data burst by null-padding to be an integer multiple of a prescribed data-size.

43. (original) The method of claim 42 including the further step of transmitting said data burst at a time based at least in part on a reading of said time counter.

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 11 and 23-30 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,118,762 to Nomura. Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nomura in view of Gaudet (U.S. Patent 6,529,571). Claims 12-19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over AAPA in view of Nomura. Claims 10, 21 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura in view of Beshai U.S. 6,907,002.

Claims 40-43 were allowed.

In order only to expedite allowance of this application, applicants have cancelled claims 1-39. Accordingly, all non-cancelled claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

  August 15, 2006   /Lindsay G. McGuinness/
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